

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 02404 301602Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00
HA-05 /101 W

-----020971 311106Z /14

R 301525Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1627
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2404

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO, EG
SUBJ: POLITICAL ATTITUDES IN GAZA

SUMMARY: GAZANS ARE PESSIMISTIC CAMP DAVID WILL RESULT
IN PROGRESS, ARE SOURED ON SADAT INITIATIVE, RECEPTIVE
TO LINKS WITH JORDAN AND UNRECONCILED TO ISRAELI OCCUPATION,
UNRWA DIRECTOR SAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT RECENT SOCIAL FUNCTION IN JERUSALEM, GAZA UNRWA
DIRECTOR EHRENSTROM COMMENTED ON GAZA POLITICAL ATTITUDES.
MOST OF AREA'S EDUCATED ELITE ARE PESSIMISTIC CAMP DAVID
WILL PRODUCE RESULTS GIVEN WHAT IS SEEN AS ISRAEL'S
UNYIELDING POSITION OF SETTLEMENTS AND WITHDRAWAL. EARLIER
EUPHORIA OF SADAT INITIATIVE HAS GIVEN WAY TO WIDESPREAD
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SKEPTICISM.

2. GAZA IS WITHOUT EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP SINCE MAYOR
RASHAD SHAWWA HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR THREE MONTHS, PRESUMABLY
COOLING HIS HEELS IN RIYAD WAITING FOR AN AUDIENCE TO PRESS FOR
DELIVERY OF MONEY PROMISED EARLIER. (HIS ENEMIES ARE SPREADING
A STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HAS BEEN ARRESTED EITHER

BY SAUDIS OR ANOTHER ARAB STATE FOR HAVING MISAPPROPRIATED ARAB FUNDS INTENDED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN GAZA. MAYOR FREIJ OF BETHLEHEM DENIES THIS AND SAYS SHAWWA SIMPLY WAITING TO PRESENT HIS CASE IN PERSON TO SAUDIS.) RASHAD SHAWWA'S NEPHEW ISAM, THE FORMER CITY MANAGER, RESIGNED IN A DISPUTE WITH THE MAYOR. PRESENTLY, THE MUNICIPALITY IS IN THE HANDS OF CLERKS WHO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

3. EHRENSTROM OBSERVED THAT MANY GAZANS BELIEVE THAT THEIR HOPE OF EVENTUALLY EMERGING FROM A MILITARY OCCUPATION LIES IN SOME FORM OF A GAZA/WEST BANK ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN. DESPITE THEIR FRUSTRATION AND PESSIMISM, EHRENSTROM SAYS GAZANS ARE NOT RECONCILED TO INDEFINITE ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION.

4. EHRENSTROM ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE HEAD OF THE GAZA RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, DR. HADAR ABDUL SHAFI, WAS POTENTIALLY A FUTURE LEADER OF THE GAZA AREA. IN HIS VIEW, IF NEW ELECTIONS WERE HELD TODAY, ABDUL SHAFI WOULD DEFEAT THE SHAWWA CLAN.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY TEL AVIV IS OBVIOUSLY CLOSER TO THE GAZA SITUATION THAN WE ARE. WE ARE REPORTING ABOVE BECAUSE EHRENSTROM HAS LIVED IN GAZA FOR SOME TIME AND HIS POSITION REQUIRES HIM TO WORK CLOSELY WITH LOCAL LEADERS AS WELL
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AS ISRAELIS.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO, EG
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Type: TE
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